
what's up doc?



by Dr. Mary Livers

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Hello, Everyone:

Going through my mail, I ran across a newsletter with a message from a colleague who is also a good friend. Larry Norris, Director of the Arkansas Department of Corrections and president of the Association of State Correctional Administrators, wrote a message for *Communications Directions*, newsletter of the ASCA, that I want to share with you. I decided to have Larry stand in as a guest columnist this week.

“Maybe I’m just one of those people who are easily amazed. I mean, it doesn’t take very much to amaze me. For example, every time I see a professional golfer strike the ball, I am amazed. They can make it sail three hundred yards or better, curve it right or left and stop it on a dime. I can, on the other hand, make the ball go. Well, most of the time I can make the ball go. But the ability to determine how far it goes, in which direction it travels and where it lands seems to be missing from my set of golfing skills. As a hacker, I am just happy I hit the ball and it moves.

Sometimes after round of golf, I like to have a nice steak dinner because steak always hits the spot. After decades and decades eating steak, I am still amazed by how good rib eyes and filets taste. You would think the flavor would fade over the years; that it would become more run of the mill. But it hasn’t. A good steak tastes just as great today as it did when I was young, and that’s amazing.

I am also amazed every time mallards are lured in by the sound of a duck call. There’s just something about it that astound me, even after all these years. And next duck season, if I’m able, you will find me hiding in the brush of the scatters, dressed in my cold weather gear, with my shotgun loaded, doing my best to call in the drakes. Spot one, sound the call, and watch him glide towards you. But make the wrong sound or the wrong move, and away he flies. That’s the way hunting goes. Sometimes I bag a few birds and sometimes I leave without ever firing a shot. But I will be out there every chance I get, amazed by the hunt.

I am amazed that I have such a fantastic family – two outstanding kids, a couple of perfect grandchildren and a wonderful wife. I couldn’t ask for a better family and I am amazed at how blessed I am. No one could ask for more. We are happy, healthy, and we’ve had the good fortune of sharing some amazing adventures.

There was the size of the Pacific, the height of the Rockies, the span of the Grand Canyon, the glaciers of Alaska, the beauty of Europe and the power of the wildlife in Africa. Through it all, I have been amazed that even though communities, countries and cultures differ dramatically, people really don’t. All of us are pretty much the same, really, with the same hopes for our family, our friends, our country and ourselves. And what is even more amazing is that some folks seem to have such a difficult time understanding that.”

I could not have said it better. I hope that each of you have had some amazing experiences, and that there are more to come. I hope we can all be amazed by the beauty of ordinary things.

As ever, thanks for all the amazing things you do every day to meet the mission.

Sincerely,

“Doc” *Dr. Mary Livers*

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